United Nations A/RES/72/115

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 December 2017

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 80

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2017

[*on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/72/459)*]

72/115. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for more than half a century,

Recognizing the major contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries, legal systems and regions of the world for more than half a century and the importance of ensuring the successful continuation of the Programme for the benefit of present and future generations of lawyers,

Emphasizing the important contribution of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, to the furtherance of United Nations rule of law programmes and activities,

Reaffirming that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the Programme of Assistance effectively reaching its beneficiaries, including with regard to languages, while bearing in mind limitations on available resources,

17-22153 (E) 201217

Please recycle

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance[1] and the views of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which are contained in the report,

Noting with satisfaction that resources have been provided under the programme budget for the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on an annual basis and the further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law,

Welcoming the organization, for the first time in the history of the Programme of Assistance, of all three of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean in two consecutive years,

Noting with regret that, owing to insufficient voluntary contributions to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, in 2017 an abbreviated award was made, consisting of a placement at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, without the traditional subsequent six-month research/study phase at an institution of higher learning,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Convinced that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing highly qualified lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Reiterates its approval* of the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the reports of the Secretary-General,[2] in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified in his report[1] in 2018 and 2019, including the following activities to be financed from provisions in the regular budget:

(a) The International Law Fellowship Programme, with a minimum of 20 fellowships;

---

[1] A/72/517.

[2] A/70/423, A/71/432 and A/72/517.

(b) The United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a minimum of 20 fellowships for each course;

(c) The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, including its continuation and further development;

(d) The dissemination of legal publications and lectures of the Audiovisual Library to developing countries to the extent that there are sufficient resources;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to further expand the activities referred to in paragraph 2 above, to be financed from voluntary contributions received pursuant to paragraphs 15, 24 and 25 below;

4. *Commends* the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law to increase the number of fellowships for the training courses financed from provisions in the regular budget, taking into account the number of applications for these courses;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to award additional fellowships for the training courses from available resources under the programme budget for the Programme of Assistance and from voluntary contributions received pursuant to paragraph 25 below;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the training courses, self-funded candidates present in the host country or from countries willing to bear the entire cost of their participation;

7. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2018 and one in 2019 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the regular budget, for consideration by the General Assembly, the necessary funding for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea for the biennium 2018–2019, should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include resources under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean each year and for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities conducted under the Programme of Assistance and, in particular, for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme in 2017;

11. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs, and once again requests the Secretary-General

to issue the publications referred to in his previous report[3] in various formats, including hard copy publications, which are essential for developing countries;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts undertaken by the Codification Division to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance thereof and made possible the preparation of legal training materials, and encourages the Division to continue to explore ways of sustaining such efforts into the next biennium, subject to the availability of resources;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the issuance of the ninth edition of *The Work of the International Law Commission* and of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook 2013*;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* for the issuance of the English-language edition of the *International Law Handbook* as a valuable resource for international law education on a broad range of core subjects of international law in its training courses and for academic institutions in developing countries to promote international law education in those countries, and requests Member States to provide the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure the completion of this educational resource in French and, subject to the availability of funds, in the other official languages of the United Nations, as well as its dissemination in developing countries;

16. *Requests* the Codification Division to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

17. *Requests* that interns and research assistants be enlisted for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as well as the International Law Handbook;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law as an important training activity;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to Ethiopia, Chile and Thailand for hosting the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Asia-Pacific in 2017;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to the African Union for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa;

21. *Once again encourages* the Codification Division to cooperate with the African Institute of International Law, dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance;

22. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with courses at the Academy;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of the Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls

[3] A/70/423, para. 45.

upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

25. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme;

26. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made voluntary contributions to support the Programme of Assistance;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2018 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".

67th plenary meeting
7 December 2017